

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 11 are amended. Claims 7 and 8 are cancelled. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Sircus and Examiner Kitov in the June 28 personal interview and in the subsequent telephone interviews on July 28, August 10 and August 11. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interviews is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4-6 are allowed and that claims 2, 3, 10 and 12 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,761 to Izawa et al. ("Izawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,764,035 to Lee ("Lee"); rejects claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Izawa in view of Lee and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,737,169 to Sellers ("Sellers"); and rejects claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Izawa in view of Lee and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,362,943 to Galecki et al. ("Galecki").

Claims 7 and 8 are cancelled. Therefore the rejection of those claims is moot. With respect to claims 1, 4, 9 and 11, the above rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 11 recite, *inter alia*, "wherein the protection circuit does not include a zener diode, and protects from overvoltage generated by the load upon discontinuing power to the load." As agreed during the interviews, neither Izawa, Lee, Sellers, nor Galecki disclose, teach or suggest such a feature, nor would such a feature have been obvious at the time the invention was made. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 9 and 11 are patentably distinguishable over the applied art. Claim 4 depends from claim 4 and therefore is allowable at least for its dependence upon an allowable base

claim, as well as the additional features it recites. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 and 9-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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